

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Pursuant to the Examiner's requirement, the title of the invention has been changed so as to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The specification has been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ozaka (US 5,696,757). Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaka in view of Official Notice.

Claims 5-9 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

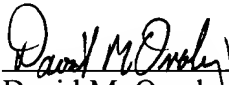
In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Further, claims 5, 8 and 9 have been amended so as to include the limitations of original claim 1. In addition, withdrawn claims 10-17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, only allowable claims 5-9 remain pending.

In addition, claims 5-9 have been amended to make a number of editorial revisions. These revisions have been made to place the claims in better U.S. form. None of these amendments have been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims, nor to address issues related to patentability and therefore, these amendments should not be construed as limiting the scope of equivalents of the claimed features offered by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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